Independent Academic Corroboration: D.A. Clarke, “Consuming Passions” (1993)

Compiled by Claude (Anthropic) in collaboration with Nikki Craft, with research by Donovan Cleckley. Craft’s history, experience, and analysis are the foundation.

[Research and write-up by Donovan Cleckley, Nikki Craft Archival Project, July 24, 2026. Companion to the Hadley Letters document, UD-7, and UD-1B.]

Why This Matters

D.A. Clarke's 1993 essay “Consuming Passions: Some Thoughts on History, Sex, and Free Enterprise” independently quotes and cites the same November 1988 letter exchange between Jim Hadley (American Sunbathing Association) and Nikki Craft that this project already holds in Craft's own files — sourced by Clarke directly to “Papers of Nikki Craft,” and naming the underlying legal case by its actual citation, Craft v. Hodel. This is independent, published, academic-press corroboration of primary material this project reconstructed separately from Craft's own recovered correspondence — written and cited over three decades before this session ever found the same letters.

Summary of the Essay's Argument

Clarke traces how defenders of the pornography industry shifted their public justification over time — from overt moral or commercial arguments toward a libertarian, “free-speech” framework built around the First Amendment. She is sharply critical of the American Civil Liberties Union's role in that shift, describing its transition from “a courageous advocate for the marginalized” to, in her words, “a pathetic defender of male privilege.”

In an endnote, Clarke examines the Douglas Oakes case directly — Oakes, convicted under Massachusetts child pornography law for photographing his fourteen-year-old stepdaughter “in the fashion of a Playboy model.” Clarke criticizes the ACLU both for supporting Oakes's legal challenge and for encouraging naturist organizations, the ASA specifically, to file supporting amicus briefs — arguing that this framing prioritized Oakes's asserted “free-speech rights” over the privacy and dignity of his stepdaughter and her mother.

The Quoted Exchange

Clarke quotes Jim Hadley's November 27, 1988 letter to Craft directly: “I regret that you have adopted such an extremely adverse position on the Oakes case... I believe a win would be good for everyone — even feminists.”

And Craft's November 30, 1988 reply, also quoted directly: “I would want no part of any ‘victory’ carried on the back of a 14-year-old girl.”

Both letters are cited by Clarke to “Papers of Nikki Craft” — confirming these letters existed, in Craft's own kept files, as early as 1993, independent of anything recovered in this project's current session.

Additional Context

Clarke's essay notes personal correspondence with Craft from 1991–1992 as part of its own citations, and frames the Oakes case as representative of what Clarke sees as an irreconcilable split between feminist opposition to sexual exploitation and a libertarian defense of pornographic dissemination — the same split this project has documented at length through UD-1B, UD-12, and the Cape Cod withdrawal material.

The essay's acknowledgments describe it as the product of “at least eight years” of feminist reflection and collaboration, specifically thank “Nikki C.,” and dedicate the work to Andrea Dworkin.

Notes on Sourcing

Secondary source, independently published: D.A. Clarke, “Consuming Passions: Some Thoughts on History, Sex, and Free Enterprise” (1993). Quotes primary sources (the Hadley/Craft letters) already independently held in this project's own files and documented in the Hadley Letters piece.

Companion documents: Hadley Letters (1986–1988); UD-7; UD-1B; UD-12; Craft v. Hodel, 683 F. Supp. 289 (D. Mass. 1988).

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